

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system comprising:

first computers;

a storage device subsystem including storage devices holding therein data to be accessed by said first computers; and

a second computer having therein device management data on said storage devices possessed by said storage device subsystem and also having host computer management data indicative of assignment states of said first computers to said storage devices,

wherein said first computer has request means for receiving a request of a new storage device from a user or application program and requiring said second computer to assign the new storage device,

said second computer has determination means, in response to the request from said request means, for determining one of the storage devices assignable to said first computer by referring to said device management data and said host computer management data and also has modification means for modifying setting of said storage device subsystem in such a manner that the storage device determined by said determination means can be accessed by said first computer.

2. A computer system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said storage device is at least part of storage areas of the physical storage devices provided in said storage device subsystem.

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4. A computer system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said determination means refers to said device management data and selects one of said storage devices which satisfies said conditions specified by said request means and which is in its offline state as an assignable storage device.

5. A computer system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said conditions include data for specification of at least one of performance and reliability of the storage device to be required.

6. A computer system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said request means has means for receiving a request for modification of a capacity of an existing storage device and sending said request to said second computer, said second computer has, in response to the capacity modification request, means for selecting one of the storage devices which coincides in capacity with a capacity-modified storage device and also has means for instructing said storage device subsystem to move data held in said existing storage device to the storage device selected by said selection means, and said storage device subsystem has means for moving the data in response to said instruction.

7. A computer system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said first computer has means for providing a plurality of the storage devices to said application program as a logically single device.

8. A computer system as set forth in claim 7, wherein said request means, in response to a request for expanding the capacity of the device already provided to said application program, issues a request for assignment of a new storage device having a capacity necessary for expansion of said expansion request to said second computer, and said device providing means for setting the newly-assigned storage device as part of said expansion-required device.

9. A method for assigning storage devices in a computer system including a storage device subsystem having first computers and the storage devices holding data to be accessed by said first computers and also including a second computer for managing assignment state of said storage devices possessed by said storage device subsystem to said first computers, comprising the steps of:

issuing a request for assignment of a new storage device to said second computer from said first computer;

determining in said second computer the storage device assignable to said first computer on the basis of said request;

instructing, in said second computer, said storage device subsystem to modify setting of the

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13. A method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising the step of, in said first computer, combining said determined storage device and an existing



wherein each of said plurality of computers has request means for receiving a request of a new file area from a user or application program and requiring file server to assign the new file area, and

said file server, in response to the request from said request means, has means for determining one of the storage devices which has a storage area and to which said file can be set by referring to said device management data and said host computer management data, modification means for modifying setting of said storage device subsystem in such a manner that said file server can access the storage device determined by said determination means, setting means for modifying setting of said file server in such a manner that said determined storage device can be used, and file management means for creating said file area on said determined storage device.

16. A computer system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said file management means has means for transmitting data used for access to the created file area to the computer as the request sender, and said request sender computer has an application program which can access said created file are utilizing said data used for access.

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